

Message Text

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51

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10 LAB-06

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 OMB-01 AID-20 DOTE-00 AGR-20

PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /112 W

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R 241610Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SESTATE WASHDC 6897

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, HO

SUBJECT: LABOR STRIFE ON THE NORTH COAST

REF: A-42

1. THE DISPUTE BETWEEN LEVABLE BRASSIERES OF HONDURAS AND ITS UNION, SITRALOV, CONTINUES UNRESOLVED. REFAIR INCORRECTLY REPORTED THAT EARLIER CONTRACT HAD EXPIRED WHEN IN FACT THE COMPANY AND UNION HAVE NOT HAD A CONTRACT. FIRINGS DESCRIBED REFAIR FOLLOWED SUBMISSION OF CONTRACT PROPOSALS BY THE UNION, WHICH HAS 125 MEMBERS OUT OF A TOTAL WORKFORCE OF 400. THE COMPANY IS JUSTIFYING DISMISSALS ON GROUNDS THAT EXPORTATION TO THE U.S. HAS BEEN CUT BACK DRASTICALLY. LATEST INFO AVAILABLE COMMATT INDICATES COMPANY APPROXIMATELY 50 PERCENT U.S. OWNED. FESITRANH PRESIDENT GONZALEZ HAS INFORMED AIFLD CPD HEBERLE THAT IF WORKERS ARE NOT REHIRED BY APRIL 26 CERTAIN FESITRANH AFFILIATES WILL STRIKE SELECTED SAN PEDRO SULA PLANTS IN AN EFFORT TO BUILD PRESSURE FOR SETTLEMENT. PRIVATE SECTOR FEELING IN SAN PEDRO SULA GENERALLY IS THAT LEVABLE MANAGEMENT WENT TOO FAR IN ITS ANTI-UNION CAMPAIGN SO PRESSURE ALREADY EXISTS FOR RESOLUTION.

2. A STRIKE VOTE HAS BEEN TAKEN BY PORT WORKERS UNION,
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SITRAENP, OF PUERTO CORTES. DISPUTE CENTERS AROUND

QUESTION OF CONTRACT COMPLIANCE ON SALARY PROVISIONS ON
PART OF PORT AUTHORITY. DISPUTE HAS ALREADY GONE THROUGH
MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION IN LABOR MINISTRY WITHOUT
SUCCESS. UNION ASSEMBLY VOTED FOR STRIKE ACTION RATHER
THAN ARBITRATION APRIL 22 BUT IS POSTPONING STRIKE FOR THE
MOMENT AWAITING PERSONAL INTERVENTION OF LABMIN FONSECA.
FONSECA INFORMED LABOFF TODAY THAT HE WAS LEAVING
IMMEDIATELY FOR PUERTO CORTES AND THAT HE WAS OPTIMISTIC
THAT STRIKE COULD BE AVERTED. HE ADDED THAT THE PROPOSED
STRIKE WOULD AFFECT PUBLIC SERVICES AND IS BANNED BY THE
LABOR CODE. PUERTO CORTES IS THE COUNTRY'S BUSIEST PORT.
A SITRAENP STRIKE WOULD NOT AFFECT SHIPMENT OF BANANAS.
SANCHEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISPUTES, EXPORTS, LABOR RELATIONS, CONTRACTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TEGUCI01708
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740098-0141
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740416/aaaaaody.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A-42
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17 SEP 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LABOR STRIFE ON THE NORTH COAST
TAGS: ETRD, ELAB, HO, US, AIFLD
To: n/a
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005